



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 13, 2018

Contact: Jay Lininger, (541) 841-8336, jay@jamiefororegon.com
Sal Peralta, (503) 687-1206, info@indparty.com

Independent Party Endorses McLeod-Skinner for Congress
Democrat favored over incumbent Walden

BEND, Ore.—The [Independent Party of Oregon](#) today endorsed Democratic candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner for election to the U.S. House of Representatives in the second congressional district.

“Jamie will put Oregon’s interests first,” said Sal Peralta, secretary of the party’s State Council. “The incumbent is beholden to special interests.”

“I am proud to be endorsed by the Independent Party of Oregon,” McLeod-Skinner said. “I hear from people all over our district that regardless of politics most of us want the same things, the ability to keep our families healthy and to put food on the table.”

5 percent of voters in the second district are registered with the Independent Party. Its rate of new voter registrations has more than doubled the Democratic and Republican parties combined since recognition by the Oregon Secretary of State as a ballot-qualified minor party in 2007.

32 percent of registered voters in the second district are not affiliated with any political party.

State Council member Drew Kaza noted close alignment of McLeod-Skinner’s [platform](#) with his party’s [agenda](#) to reduce special interest influence and increase transparency in government, protect consumers, and grow business in ways that benefit the public.

Kaza said incumbent Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) does not measure up because he [leads the U.S. House](#) in financial contributions from several major industries, including pharmaceutical and health product manufacturers, commercial television and radio stations, telecommunication service providers and electric utilities, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

“Walden is well known for taking big money from special interests and putting the interests of donors and his own Washington D.C. prestige first,” Kaza said.

BACKGROUND

JAMIE
MCLEOD  SKINNER

FOR CONGRESS • FOR OREGON

Walden chairs the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) with jurisdiction over public health, food and drug safety, consumer protection, telecommunications, energy policy and other matters. Many of his [leading campaign donors](#) have business currently pending in the committee.

Last year Walden's committee and the full House of Representatives passed a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act, but the bill died in the U.S. Senate amid [controversy](#) over its failure to require health insurance coverage of pre-existing conditions for millions of Americans, including one in every five people in the second district.

Dan Becker, leader of the Northeast Chapter of the Independent Party of Oregon covering Baker, Umatilla and Union counties, faulted Walden for failed leadership as costs to consumers of health services continue to grow.

“One reason health costs are through the roof is because Walden has protected the profits of industry to the detriment of Oregonians,” he said.

Improving universal and affordable access to the full range of physical and behavioral healthcare services is a [centerpiece](#) of McLeod-Skinner's candidacy.

“A major flaw of the current system is that many people are driven from care, either through high deductibles or high premiums,” according to her campaign's website. “This is simply unacceptable, and the alternatives offered last summer by Congress were ineffective.”

McLeod-Skinner has put [more than 40,000 miles](#) on her Jeep over the past 15 months meeting with and listening to voters in the second district covering more than two-thirds of Oregon, including all 18 counties east of the Cascades, Jackson County and parts of Josephine County near Grants Pass.

###